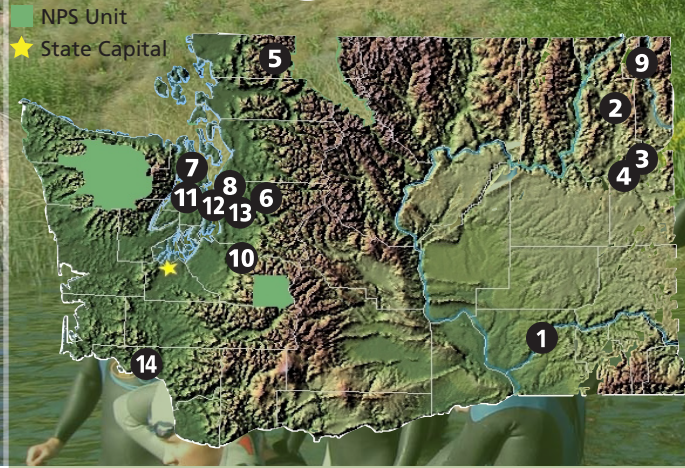




Washington News



The annual Moses Lake Triathlon is an important fundraiser. Photo: City of Moses Lake

2010 PROJECTS

1. Blackjack Creek Wilderness Trail
2. Chewelah Creek Path
3. Dishman Hills-Iller Creek Conservation Corridor
4. Five Mile Prairie Loop Trail
5. Glacier Community Trail
6. Green River Gorge Greenway
7. North Kitsap County Trails
8. Northeast Seattle Trails
9. Pend Oreille Water Trail
10. Pierce County Open Space Preservation Plan
11. Poulsbo Urban Trail System
12. Puget Creek Restoration
13. Seattle Trail to Treasure
14. South Cowlitz River Trail Loop

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

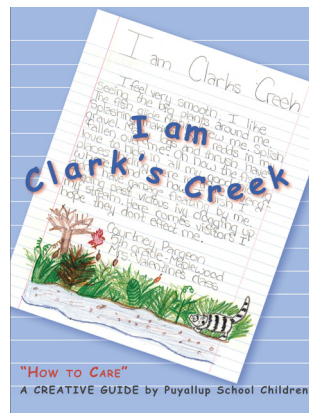
ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Recent Successes

Moses Lake Takes Health Seriously

When the Washington State Department of Health chose Moses Lake as a pilot to test its new plan for physical activity and nutrition, the community responded with a priority action to develop a network of pathways. RTCA helped the steering committee with trail planning, bilingual outreach, and a design workshop co-sponsored with the American Society of Landscape Architects. Since then, the city has leveraged more than \$2,000,000 through partnership efforts, built more than 12 miles of trails, initiated a Safe Routes to School Program, and is able to offer recreation and health programs for truly active living in Moses Lake.



Kids Make a Difference for Clark's Creek

In 2002, the Puyallup River Watershed Council asked RTCA to help address pollution issues in Clark's Creek. RTCA brought in "artists-in-residence" who worked with local school children to create artwork, stories, and poems reflecting the conservation messages for grown-ups. The resulting kid-friendly publication, "I am Clark's Creek," spurred citizens to form Friends of Clark's Creek, a local advocate for creek clean-up activities. Illegal discharges have been stopped, an upstream fish hatchery made improvements to water quality, and many land owners have implemented creekside restoration along their properties.

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Current Projects

1. Blackjack Creek Wilderness Trail

Lead Partner: City of Port Orchard

The project partners want to create a 1.25 mile 'wilderness' trail along a natural, heavily vegetated salmon-bearing stream that flows through Port Orchard to Puget Sound. With RTCA assistance, the city will hold public workshops and meetings to finalize details for the trail and produce a publically supported concept plan for trail construction.



Blackjack Creek, on its way to Puget Sound. Photo: City of Port Orchard

2. Chewelah Creek Path

Lead Partner: City of Chewelah

With assistance from RTCA, the City of Chewelah will update a 17-year-old plan for a pathway along the creek that flows through town and explore secondary trail loops. Partners hope the path will connect city parks, City Hall, neighborhoods, and schools and build awareness and support for habitat restoration along the creek.

3. Dishman Hills-Iller Creek Conservation Corridor

Lead Partner:
Inland Northwest Trails Coalition

A diverse group of non-profit and public organizations in metropolitan Spokane are partnering to establish a corridor between two established conservation areas. The surrounding environment provides critical habitat,



Recommendations for a county-wide system of trails and greenbelts, such as the Foothills Trail shown above, will be developed by the Pierce County Open Space Task Force. Photo: Kirk Kirkland

serves as a wildlife migration corridor, displays Ice Age flood formations, provides cherished views, and has the potential to link two trail systems. RTCA will assist the partnership with engaging nearby neighborhoods in the planning effort.

4. Five Mile Prairie Loop Trail

Lead Partner: Spokane County Division of Engineering & Roads

Trail proponents want to create a network of public trails that connect residents, neighborhood destinations



Meadowbrook Ponds, home to beavers, blue heron and salmon, is one of the urban walks featured in the NE Seattle Trails Network.

and natural areas before the opportunities are lost to residential growth and development. Safe routes for school-bound children are a critical component of the plan.

5. Glacier Community Trail

Lead Partner: Glacier Community Trail Committee

RTCA is working with trail partners to build a stronger coalition to champion design and construction of a 1.5-mile non-motorized trail that connects the small town of Glacier with the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest.

6. Green River Gorge Greenway

Lead Partner:
Middle Green River Coalition

The Middle Green River Coalition was formed to protect and enhance the "best of the last wild places in King County" for habitat health and passive recreation opportunities. RTCA is assisting the coalition in the planning and

Current Projects cont.



Chewelah Creek will one day have a trail following its course to connect the community's neighborhoods, parks, and civic buildings. Photo: Tracy Ferrell, City of Chewelah

publication of a greenway management plan that establishes a coordinated management structure for the conservation of natural and cultural resources, and appropriate access for public recreation.

7. North Kitsap String of Pearls Trails

Lead Partner:
North Kitsap Trails Association

RTCA is working with trail partners in North Kitsap County to plan a 50-mile



North Kitsap's String of Pearls Trails connects the peninsulas' communities. Think about going to work by kayak! Photo: NPS

system of trails that, like a string of pearls, links communities, tribal lands, park and public lands, and 8,000 acres of private development owned by the Olympic Property Group. More than 500 people attended the first trail information meeting and public involvement will continue to shape the final concept plan.

8. NE Seattle Neighborhood Trails

Lead Partner: Feet First

RTCA is helping Feet First and neighborhood groups develop a walking map, trail network, and wayfinding system for NE Seattle. The goal is to increase physical activity by making walking around the community easier. A trail and sidewalk inventory and prioritized list of improvements will also be developed to guide creation of safe walking opportunities.

9. Pend Oreille Water Trail

Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance

RTCA is helping trail partners develop a

plan for a 70-mile recreational boating route along the Pend Oreille River. Key goals are to preserve habitat, boost the local economy, and establish destinations for research and education within the river corridor.

10. Pierce County Open Space

Lead Partner: Pierce County Parks & Recreation Department

RTCA is facilitating an Open Space Task Force, appointed by the Pierce County Council, on a project to undertake a comprehensive review of open space resources and financing options in the development of recommendations for a coordinated and robust countywide open space preservation effort.



Volunteers build a boardwalk that is much anticipated by local walkers and birdwatchers. Photo: City of Poulsbo

11. Poulsbo Urban Trail System

Lead Partner: City of Poulsbo Parks & Recreation Department

The recent "Project Poulsbo" visioning process showed a strong desire by citizens to walk and bike. RTCA will help the City, partners, and citizens prepare an urban trail plan that will result in an 8-10 mile trail network connecting the Liberty Bay waterfront with neighborhoods, parks, downtown shopping, and schools. The trail system will also be linked to regional trails on the Kitsap Peninsula and readily accessible to the many people who arrive in Poulsbo by boat.

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

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2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,411 Miles of Trail Developed

2,664 Miles of River Conserved

87,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects cont.

12. Puget Creek Restoration

Lead Partner:
Puget Creek Watershed Alliance

RTCA is helping the Watershed Alliance sponsor a visioning process to bring conservation partners and neighborhoods together to forge a vision for the Puget Creek Watershed. Daylighting the creek, restoring native plant communities, building bioswales, and using tertiary wastewater to sustain a salmon run are all part of the possibilities. Key stakeholders include the Duwamish Tribe, Nature Consortium, People for Puget Sound, Seattle Parks & Recreation, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, and others.



Seattle's historic Pioneer Square Neighborhood is a key landmark on the Trail to Treasure--a tribute to the Klondike Gold Rush days. Photo: NPS

13. Seattle Trail to Treasure

Lead Partner:
Pioneer Square Community Association

RTCA is helping the Pioneer Square Community Association convene community stakeholders, including the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, to plan a recreational trail through the historic Pioneer Square neighborhood of Seattle. Project goals include communicating the early history of Seattle, the impact of the Klondike Gold Rush on its development, and how that story is relevant today.

14. South Cowlitz River Trail

Lead Partner: City of Longview
Parks & Recreation

The City of Longview and RTCA are working with the Cowlitz Health Department, nonprofit health advocates and other partners to conceptualize another connecting loop trail, resulting in nearly 32-miles of trail paralleling the Cowlitz River. Future phases of the trail are expected to connect with towns in the Columbia River corridor.



Puget Creek Alliance's Steve Richmond is spearheading efforts to restore Puget Creek Watershed. Photo: NPS